

MILLER cogently outlines a path forward in the Middle East and discusses the importance of supporting a political process that will bring about two States living side by side in peace and security.

[From the Vallejo Times Herald, Jan. 14, 2010]

**FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING ISRAEL**  
(By Representative George Miller)

I read with interest Larry Grossman's piece in the Times-Herald ("Miller isn't fair to Israel," Jan. 10) criticizing my record on issues related to Israel. I believe he and I share the same interest in defending Israel's right to exist and flourish in peace and security. We appear to differ on what it means to support Israel. I am glad to be able to offer my view.

The United States can and must play a constructive role in helping to end the deadly and destabilizing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. But adhering to an outdated ideology that punishes diverse perspectives on the Middle East is a disservice to Israel and the cause of peace and security. Here are my views on some of the key issues facing Israel and the United States today.

I support a strong and lasting friendship between the United States and Israel. The deep ties between our nations are rooted in a shared culture and common set of beliefs. America's support for Israel and the Israeli people has never been, nor is it now, in question.

I fully support Israel's right to defend itself and I reject hateful speech, rocket attacks, suicide bombs and other violent attacks directed against the Israeli people. No nation should ever be expected to withstand such attacks without response. When I have been critical of Israeli military action, such as in Gaza in 2008, it has been based on the view that Israel's response was disproportionate and undermined its long-term interests. In addition, democratic nations like Israel and the United States must respect International Law and human rights and I will always demand adherence to those critical instruments of democracy and freedom.

I support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the immediate resumption of peace talks as necessary steps to ensure Israel's security and status as a democratic nation. President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton support a two-state solution, as did President George W. Bush. Moreover, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supports a two-state solution. Israel must cease the aggressive, and sometimes illegal, settlement activity in order for the peace talks and the two-state solution to succeed.

When it comes to votes in Congress affecting the Middle East, I do not follow orthodoxy but judge issues based on whether they advance the cause of peace and security.

Consider two recent examples. Along with 57 other members of Congress, I opposed a House resolution in November criticizing a report by Justice Richard Goldstone on the Gaza war because the bill was rushed through the House without a single congressional hearing or any delineation of the relevant issues for members' consideration. On the other hand, I supported the recently passed Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which furthered the cause of peace and security by sending a strong signal to Iran that Congress is willing, if necessary, to enact tough sanctions to diminish Iran's capability to threaten Israel.

Debate in the United States on Middle East issues has been dominated for decades by the position pushed by some supporters of Israel that the only friend of Israel is the one

who never criticizes. That is not the definition of friendship.

Not all actions by the government of Israel are in the best of interest of the Jewish people, but to say so publicly is not an attack on the state. The same is true for our own country. Criticizing the Bush administration for invading Iraq or the Obama administration for wanting to close Guantanamo, just for example, are not attacks on America nor should they ever be labeled as such.

There are many different voices within Israel on the issue of peace and security, just as there are wide ranging views among American Jews and others in our country that support the state of Israel. Americans For Peace Now, for example, an affiliate of the non-governmental Israeli movement Peace Now, is critical of some Israeli military and government actions but is clearly pro-Israel. And J Street, a different organization mentioned by Mr. Grossman, does an excellent job of educating policymakers about Middle East issues. J Street is pro-Israel and pro-peace but does not support every Israeli government position.

These two groups are rattling the nerves of the traditional pro-Israel lobby—and they are being attacked as a result.

But the strength of democracy is its tolerance for dissent. Expanding the debate is a positive development for Jews, Palestinians and all Americans interested in securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

My approach as a Member of Congress when it comes to the Middle East and other vital concerns is to examine issues and raise questions and determine whether the actions planned by Congress are helpful to the cause of peace and security. I can think of no greater way in which to show my support for Israel and the Israeli people.

**HONORING NICHOLAS D. TURCOTTE**

**HON. ERIK PAULSEN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Nicholas D. Turcotte, a citizen-soldier gave his life on December 4, 2006 while serving in Iraq.

As a member of the Minnesota National Guard, Nick distinguished himself. In just 2 years he rose to the rank of Sergeant, and was known as a soldier's soldier; dependable, helpful, and an outstanding example to those around him.

Sergeant Turcotte was born in Highland Park, Illinois. After living in Colorado, he moved to Maple Grove, Minnesota with his grandparents.

He enjoyed playing hockey, paintball, singing and playing trombone. He contemplated a career in law enforcement and joined the Maple Grove Police Explorers until he entered basic training with the Minnesota National Guard.

Nick married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, in September 2004.

Inspired by his enthusiasm for service and commitment to his country, Nicholas Turcotte's family has established a scholarship in his name that supports the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association. This scholarship will allow other young people to participate in the educational programs the Explorers offer, as well as providing money for secondary education.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I honor Sergeant Turcotte's sacrifice on behalf of the Nation today. We are ever grateful for his service, and continue to grieve with his family, who is keeping his memory alive each and every day.

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MATTIE LEE NASH**

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mattie Lee Nash who passed away recently at the age of 87.

As a remarkably civic-minded resident of West Dallas, Ms. Nash was constantly working to better her community. She was frequently referred to as the "Mayor of West Dallas," and during the 1980s she served on the Dallas Housing Authority's board where she gave a voice to the often forgotten neighborhoods west of the Trinity River. In 1991, she was elected to the Dallas City Council after the adoption of the single-member-district system that helped to ensure diverse representation on the city council. Throughout all of this, she maintained a tireless sense of hope that emboldened citizens across the city of Dallas.

Twenty-five years after her term on the city council, we remember Ms. Nash with warm thoughts and heavy hearts. Her actions so struck people in the community that the city recently honored her by naming a recreation center in her honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Mattie Lee Nash who worked tirelessly for the citizens of West Dallas to ensure that they were actively and fairly represented.

**THE LOSS OF C. BLYTHE ANDREWS**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 2010*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. C. Blythe Andrews Jr., the former editor-in-chief of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, Florida's largest and oldest Black newspaper, and a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on January 12, 2010 when he passed away.

Mr. Andrews' devotion to the Florida Sentinel Bulletin was life long. His first job for the paper was during his years at Booker T. Washington Junior High School. He would spend afternoons after school folding newspapers for delivery. He continued to work for the paper, under the close eye of his father who was the editor-in-chief at the time, while attending Middleton High School in Tampa. After receiving his bachelor's degree in economics, his master's in journalism, and serving in our Nation's Army, he went on to continue the family legacy of newspaper publishing, becoming editor-in-chief of the Sentinel Bulletin